

SECURE NETWORK OUTLET FOR SUPPORTING IP DEVICE ADDRESS
ASSIGNING FUNCTIONALITY

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A secure network outlet for supporting IP device address assigning
functionality. A network access request is received from an electronic device
communicatively coupled to intelligent hardware. In one embodiment, a device
address request is transmitted to a network server. A first device address is
received at the intelligent hardware from the network server. The intelligent
10 hardware then assigns a second device address to the electronic device. In
another embodiment, the intelligent hardware has a pre-assigned first device
address and assigns a second device address to the electronic device, such
that the intelligent hardware eliminates the need for a separate device address
assigning server. The present invention reduces the consumption of global
15 device addresses within a network, and also provides protection to electronic
devices by hiding their device addresses from the external network.